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INFORMATION

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COUNTRY Cuba

SUBJECT CON Control of CTC

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ACQUIRED

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**SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.**

1. Senator Eusebio Mujal, Francisco Aguirre, Suri Castillo, Pablo Balbuena, and other Comision Obrera Nacional (CON) leaders conferred with President Carlos Prío Socarras and Minister of Labor Buttari on the night of 21 March 1949. Buttari's statements, made to persons in the Palace waiting room after this conference, implied that there had been a general agreement on the legality of Aguirre's actions and that the Confederacion de Trabajadores de Cuba (CTC) Sixth Congress would no doubt be successfully convoked for 27 April 1949. Buttari stated that Comité Obrero Nacional Independiente (CONI) could not expect 50 per cent control of the CTC Executive Committee but should accept proportionate representation to the extent of its actual syndicate control.
2. CON is going ahead with its congress preparations and syndicates are presenting their credentials. Accion Revolucionaria Guiteras (ARG), which controls only 2 out of 26 federations (glass workers and chemical workers, and part of the woodworkers federation) nevertheless has more than 100 syndicates spread out over the island.
3. CONI, on the contrary, will probably end up with only 2 syndicates under its control--telephone workers and electrical workers. Aguirre claims he could take over the electrical workers from Cofino if he desired, but admits Cofino's control over the telephone workers is complete. Cofino's alleged control of 3 other syndicates appears unsubstantiated. Francisco Aguirre convened the CTC Secretariat on the night of 22 March 1949 to make more definite plans for the Congress.
4. Aguirre has prepared a denunciation of the Communist CTC which should be publicly released shortly.\* He will charge that Pena (a) has no right to use the CTC emblem, and (b) has no power to convoke a CTC Congress. Final arrangements to settle textile employees' problems have further reduced the possibility of serious labor trouble and as of noon 23 March 1949 it appears that CON will successfully convene its labor congress and that Cofino will not be able to obtain control of half the CTC Executive Committee which he claimed.

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According to a Habana news broadcast on 31 March, Autentico representatives Aguirre, Suri Castillo, and Rodrigo Lominchar asked the government to prohibit the holding of the Sixth Labor Congress of Lazaro Pena's

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supporters, scheduled for 7 April. These same representatives, on the other hand, asked for guarantees for the National Labor Congress of the official CTC which has been announced for the end of April.

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